Customize appearance

# Eminem Looks To Bring 'Different Sounds, Different Points Of View' To Hip-Hop

Detroit rapper has entered a recording studio to work on follow-up to The Slim Shady LP.

By archive-Teri-vanHorn

By archive-Teri-vanHorn

August 24, 1999 / 11:43 PM

**LOS ANGELES** — Detroit rapper Eminem slipped into a studio recently to begin recording the follow-up to his breakthrough album, *The Slim Shady LP,* saying he planned to create a record that strays both musically and lyrically from traditional rap.

"I want to bring different sounds, different points of view to hip-hop," Eminem said while attending the *Source* Hip-Hop Music Awards on Aug. 18. "I want to be different and separate myself. I already am different, you know what I'm sayin' — just from being who I am."

After about two weeks of preproduction, Eminem (born Marshall Mathers) began recording the new LP last week. The same team who oversaw the platinum *The Slim Shady LP,* FBT Productions — featuring Mark and Jeff Bass — is producing most of the tracks.

Gangsta-rap pioneer Dr. Dre, who took Eminem under his wing and signed Eminem to his Aftermath label, will produce three or four tracks, according to Alan "Zuice" Young, general manager of Web Entertainment, Eminem's original label, whose imprint continues to appear on Eminem releases.

Young called the material "over the edge." "The things that I've heard myself are Eminem in the flesh," Young said Friday, adding that the rapper is "more polished" as "a professional artist now."

"It's basically gonna be another crazy Eminem thing, but he's going to be far beyond the last album," he continued. "He's pushing the envelope even further."

The new LP is expected early next year.

After arriving at the *Source* Hip-Hop Awards on Wednesday, the blond-haired, blue-eyed rapper strolled the red carpet leading to Hollywood's Pantages Theatre, dressed in a white T-shirt bearing the words "Kinky" and "Be All You Can Be." He occasionally burst into a rap while speaking to reporters, throwing in as many four-letter words as possible.

At one point he stepped away from the cameras to catch up with friends. "Fred Durst my head hurts," he said as he greeted the leader of the thrash-rap band Limp Bizkit.

Though he's been called an overnight success, Eminem, 24, spent nearly a decade honing his rhyming skills, building a reputation as one of the best freestyle rappers in the Midwest. His debut album, *Infinite* (1996), was poorly received, but Eminem began to perfect his graphic, over-the-top storytelling style on the follow-up, *The Slim Shady EP* (1998).

After hooking up with Dr. Dre, Eminem recorded *The Slim Shady LP,* which debuted at #2 on the *Billboard* 200 albums chart and features the hit "My Name Is" (RealAudio excerpt). In addition to the usual gangsta-rap bragging, the album's darkly sadistic raps find Eminem whining in cartoonlike voices about murdering, raping underage girls and taking large amounts of drugs.

"The world will get offended when they listen to my sh--," Eminem said after the album came out. "At the end of the day, I don't give a sh-- what I rapped about. I'm just having fun ... and making fun of all the f--ed up sh-- in the world."

While clearly enjoying his success and striving for more of it, Eminem talked about the importance of staying connected to the underground.

"You've got to keep that foundation because no matter how much you blow up, you gotta see those same people on the way down," he said. "If you don't have a foundation to stand on, the platform's gonna fall out from under you."